



Department Updates

February 2022

Child Support Agency

Lynette Metcalf
Program Manager

The Child Support Agency's part-time Administrative Assistant, Patricia Dachel, retired on January 14, 2022. The part-time Administrative Assistant position is transitioning to a full-time Legal Secretary position. Jean Neuman will be joining the Child Support team on February 14, 2022 as the Legal Secretary.

The Barron County Child Support website (<https://www.barroncountywi.gov/departments>) is an excellent resource for clients to utilize. The website provides access to forms and helpful information such as applying for services, checking payment information, child support calculator, payment options, direct deposit form, job search form, medical documentation form, Motion to Change document, Stipulation and Order to Change document, and payment coupon access.

Child Support funding is based on performance guideline categories of Court Order Establishment, Paternity Establishment, Current Child Support Collections, and Arrears Collections. The graph below represents a comparison of the Barron County Child Support Agency current performance with the State of Wisconsin's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Target goal and the State of Wisconsin's FFY 2022 (statewide average) performance.

	Barron County as of January 31, 2022	Wisconsin Target Rate at FFY End	Wisconsin FFY 2022 as of January 31, 2022
Court Order Establishment	94.01%	80%	85.85%
Paternity Establishment	99.45%	90%	90.72%
Current Child Support	76.37%	80%	72.73%
Arrears Collection	55.20%	80%	50.11%

The Barron County Child Support Agency was able to collect a total of \$1,475,815.28 from November 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 to support our client's families.

The Child Support window remains open to the public from 8:00am-4:30pm. Our staff continues rotating time in the office and working remotely. Child Support clients are strongly encouraged to call (715) 537-6390 and leave a voicemail or email our agency at childsupport@co.barron.wi.us to set up an appointment with their caseworker to ensure availability.

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Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik Director

* Barron County DHHS is responsible for working youth/juveniles who have committed criminal offenses. This jurisdiction is governed by Wisconsin State Statute 938. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families has selected an assessment tool for use statewide that considers a youth's risk to reoffend in the context of the youth's needs and strengths. The Youth Assessment & Screening Instrument (YASI) is validated for youth. By the end of the three year phased implementation process (four phases expected), all counties will use the YASI in their youth justice cases. Barron County is a phase 4 county for implementation and our staff have been trained and are beginning to use the YASI. The Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASITM) measures risk of reoffense, needs and strengths and helps develop case plans. The full YASI includes a total of 88 questions; the pre-screen includes just 33 of those questions. The YASI and the accompanying case planning model, Collaborative Case Works, are grounded in the principles of Risk Need and Responsivity (RNR) and Motivational Interviewing. This tool will assist social workers in developing plans with the offender and family to prevent recidivism and support the development of prosocial behaviors.

* During the COVID-19 emergency, Wisconsin worked with the federal government to change some of the rules for BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid programs to protect members' health and safety. One of those changes has allowed members to keep coverage without renewing. When the COVID-19 emergency ends, members will need to provide details about their current situation, and a determination will be made to see if your membership in the program will be renewed. The Covid-19 emergency will be reviewed before February 16, 2022. Members will be sent letters with further instructions if the emergency is ended. Programs affected by this include:

- BadgerCare Plus
- Emergency Services Medicaid
- Family Planning Only Services
- Foster Care Medicaid
- Institutional Medicaid
- Katie Beckett Medicaid
- Medicaid Purchase Plan
- SeniorCare
- Supplemental Security Income Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income-Related Medicaid
- Tuberculosis-Related Medicaid
- Waiver Medicaid
- Wisconsin Well Women Medicaid

*The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) received federal approval for the renewal of the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program. The renewed program, which was effective January 1, 2022, incorporates child-focused services and supports, a heightened emphasis on the needs of families, and a holistic approach to serving children and families. It is hoped that providers that currently serve Barron County residents will add services to their current service array and that new providers will be established to meet the growing need of supporting children and families with diverse needs in the Community. New services added to the CLTS Waiver include:

- Discovery and career planning services which provide learning and work experiences where the participant can develop general, non-job-task-specific strengths and skills that contribute to employability in paid employment in integrated community settings.
- Grief and bereavement counseling to help the participant and/or their family cope with the possible death of the participant and support to the family after the participant's death.
- Health and wellness services will maintain or improve the health, wellbeing, socialization, and inclusion of the participant with their family and peers in the community.

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Health & Human Services (continued)

- Participant and family directed goods and services are services, supports, supplies or goods that address or enhance the participant's opportunity to meet a long-term support outcome, but is not otherwise provided through another CLTS Program service or the Medicaid State Plan.
- Participant and family-directed broker services empower and assist participants and families in directing their own CLTS Program services and supports.
- Safety planning and prevention includes items or services that reduce risk or danger to help keep the participant safe in their home and community.
- Virtual equipment and support allow a participant to access other CLTS Waiver Program services that are delivered remotely.

* The Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program which is a collaboration with Eau Claire and St. Croix Counties, the BEST consortium continues to grow. This program serves people across the lifespan who have Substance Use Disorders and/or Behavioral Health concerns. Barron County has now enrolled 101 people into this program; 40 Adults (13 male and 27 female) and 61 children (39 males and 22 females). There is not a waitlist for this program and referrals for service continue to come into the Department.

* The number of Covid cases in Barron County continues to decrease quickly. Here is a snapshot of case activity over the last 9 weeks.

12/13/2021	247
12/20/2021	143
12/27/2021	127
01/03/2022	275
01/10/2022	464
01/17/2022	617
01/24/2022	583
01/31/2022	444
02/07/2022	167

Public Health continues to focus on providing vaccines for those in the community who have not yet been fully vaccinated but want to become.



Barron County hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, January 28th.
There were 32 donors and a total of 29 units of blood collected.
THANK YOU to all who participated!

Waste to Energy

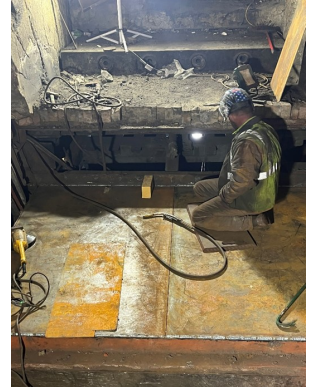
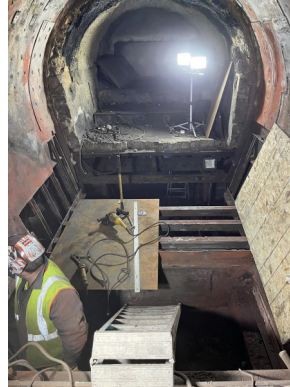
Brent Bohn, Plant Director

Let's talk trash! It is surprising how drastically the fuel (waste / trash) changes from the summer months to the winter months. The waste during the winter months is very dry and normally consists of cardboard, wood, paper and plastic packaging materials. The incinerators burn through the waste very fast because of the dryness and low btu values and it is always a struggle to maintain an adequate supply of waste on our tipping floor during these months.

Because of this, we choose this time of year to shut down 1 of our 2 incinerators and perform upgrades and overhauls. In the summer months we shut down a unit every 12 weeks for 3 to 4 days to perform light maintenance and cleaning. During the winter months we will keep a unit down for 14 days or longer to perform major repairs and any maintenance that would be too costly to perform during the busy summer months. This winter is no different and we're taking full advantage of the inadequate waste supply and repairing two major items. Those items are the #1 Incinerator Primary Chamber (main furnace, where the trash is actually burning) and the Condensing Steam Turbine Generator.

#1 Incinerator Primary Chamber:

This chamber is where the trash is actually burning. It is a steel shell, kind of shaped like an egg that is about 15 feet in diameter and 30' long and is lined with an insulating concrete like material (called refractory). The chamber has been burning waste for about 35 years which has taken its toll on the refractory and outer shell. We completely demolished the refractory, replaced corroded sections of the shell and rebuilt the entire floor of the unit in 14 days. Then 50,600 pounds of refractory was installed on the rebuilt shell to complete the furnace repair. The unit is back up and running and it is operating more efficiently now then I have ever seen. The total approximate cost for this repair was \$85,000.00



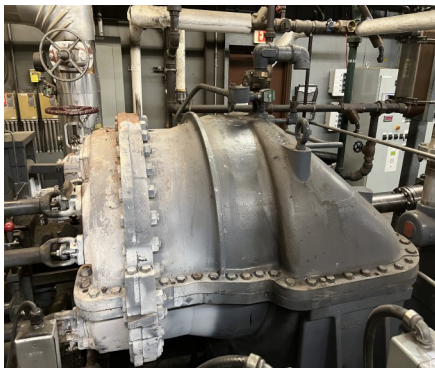
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Waste to Energy (continued)

Condensing Steam Turbine Generator repair:

The Condensing Steam Turbine Generator or CSTG converts steam energy to electricity and produces 2,175 horsepower. About 15,000 pounds of steam is fed into the turbine every hour. The steam is at 100 psi and is 450 degrees Fahrenheit. This turns a rotor which turns a generator to make electricity. The turbine is at a 28" vacuum so the 100 psi 450 deg f steam is turned into water in a fraction of a second. The water that comes out of the turbine is then sent back to the boilers to make steam again.

The turbine was put online in January of 2011 and has been operating 95% of the time ever since. The rotor weighs approximately 2000 pounds and rotates at 6000 rpm. It was decided to have the turbine rebuilt due to its length of service and the potential catastrophic damage that would occur if the rotor or bearings were ever damaged or failed. The cost of the rebuild will total around \$250,000.00 and is expected to take around 5 weeks to complete. At this point, it's looking like we will be reassembling the turbine in the 1st or 2nd week of March. The generator, which weighs 13,000 pounds was also removed and sent out for inspection and repair.



Tours of the facility are always welcome and encouraged!!!
Simply contact me at 6881 or brent.bohn@co.barron.wi.us

Clerk of Court

Sharon Millermon
Clerk of Courts

The Clerk of Court Office began turning unpaid court obligations over to the Statewide Debt Collection in September, 2018. The below chart represents the annual statistics. Unfortunately the total amount collected does not remain in the county by any means and actually very little remains in the county. Most of the funds collected are paid to the State. However, county advanced court appointed attorney fees and guardian ad litem fees are being recouped through the Statewide Debt Collection. Delinquent county citations and ordinance violations are also being recouped with approximately 25% of the total amount collected remaining in the county.

	Court Obligations Collected	Restitution Collected and Paid to Victims
2018	\$3,542.19	\$1,403.17
2019	\$117,041.10	\$14,324.83
2020	\$296,002.89	\$5,421.52
2021	<u>\$511,853.12</u>	<u>\$13,895.06</u>
TOTALS	\$928,439.30	\$35,044.58

In order to submit a debt to the Statewide Debt Collection, a civil money judgment must be taken. Interest is statutorily charged at 1% plus the prime interest rate in effect on January 1 and July 1 of each year. The interest rate has ranged from 4.25% - 12% over the years from 2011 – present. The full amount of interest collected below is 100% county retained.

2011	12%	\$170.49
2012	4.25%	\$1,958.64
2013	4.25%	\$4,625.33
2014	4.25%	\$6,031.25
2015	4.25%	\$6,805.01
2016	4.50%	\$8,520.68
2017	4.75 – 5.25%	\$11,809.18
2018	5.50 – 6 %	\$13,025.04
2019	6.50%	\$16,318.55
2020	5.75 – 4.25%	\$36,203.57
2021	4.25%	<u>\$73,198.74</u>
TOTAL		\$178,666.48

Again, the above tables pertain to delinquent debts. Many litigants are on monthly payment plans with the payments being sent to the court directly from their employer or paid directly. Those debts do not bear interest nor have judgments been taken. A sliding scale is used to determine monthly payments. The base minimum monthly payment is \$25.00 @ month, but we have some debtors that even \$25.00 @ month is too much to pay and in those instances, we are accepting a lesser monthly amount. The office goal is to work with people so they can get the debt along with whatever reason the debt was created behind them.

Even though the courts are not intended to generate revenue to fund both the courts and other functions of government, Wisconsin Statutes also states several times, “the Clerk **shall** collect..”

Aging & Disability Resource Center

Jennifer Jako
Director

The ADRC is a one-stop shop for information and resources for older adults, adults with disabilities, caregivers, and other community providers. We serve anyone regardless of income or assets and our services are free and confidential. Our job is to help individuals and caregivers understand all the various resources and navigate decisions to stay healthy as we age and/or navigate living with a disability.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Grant Award: In sticking with our mission, we applied for and were awarded a \$120,000 grant to employ 2 limited term CHWs. This grant is part of a larger DHS CDC grant and the intent is to help address the health, safety, and socioeconomic wellbeing of older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers in rural communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The CHW model employs frontline workers who are trusted members of and/or have an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality of service delivery. CHWs may serve a variety of functions, including client advocacy; increasing health literacy, preventive health education and services; facilitation of care-coordination; provision of other services; and connections to community resources. We will be recruiting for (2) LTE positions at ~20 hrs/week to work with Home Delivered Meal (HDM) Coordinators serving identified high risk HDM participants, and with Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) staff in supporting a focus on Brain Health/Memory Screen outreach and follow up in our regional ADRC. The grant starts March 1, 2022 and ends May 30, 2023. DHS is excited about our pilot projects and hope to have outcomes that may help sustain future funding for the CHW model. CHWs will be a part of staff meetings at all regional locations and will work very closely with staff and other agencies in helping to link customers to many different supports and services such as memory screen follow up, depression assessment, transportation resources, socialization resources, caregiver supports, and nutrition needs. We also expect to build new community partnerships with these positions.

www.adrcconnections.org: Just a reminder that our website is a great place to start when looking for information about local resources, services and educational opportunities - like senior dining, home delivered meals, menus, support groups, commodities, memory screens, music and memory, transportation, respite, and benefits counseling. Staff have been busy creating many new upcoming opportunities for our community. Please visit our website at to get more information:

- **Grandpa & Lucy** – a play designed to educate children and adults how to better communicate with loved ones who have memory loss
- **Confident Caregiver Workshop** (respite provided!)
- **Healthy Living with Diabetes** (virtual or in person options)
- **Living Well with Chronic Conditions** (virtual)
- **Wits Workout** – to help you maintain or adopt long-term health promoting behaviors through ongoing brain exercise classes
- **Lunch Bunch** – an opportunity to provide people living with memory impairment and their caregivers a safe place to connect and develop relationships

If you or anyone you know needs any information about our services or needs help planning for the future, please call 715-537-6225, email staff, or check out our website at www.adrcconnections.org, or like us on Facebook [@ADRCBarron](https://www.facebook.com/ADRCBarron).